

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
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Health Update: Information on Availability of H1N1 Vaccine at King County Pharmacies and H1N1 Vaccine Usage, 6 November 2009

Please be advised that today the Safeway pharmacy program for H1N1 vaccination Public Health established exclusively for King County healthcare providers has ended. As of today, a limited amount of both injectable and LAIV (FluMist) will be provided to a larger number of pharmacies throughout the county for persons at high risk for H1N1 and meeting ACIP eligibility criteria for vaccine. Healthcare providers that are eligible for vaccine may use this system if they do not have access to vaccine elsewhere. Details about participating pharmacies and formulations available can be found on our web site at

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health.aspx>

Public Health continues to require that all healthcare providers and pharmacies adhere to the CDC-ACIP target groups for administration of H1N1 vaccine. These groups are:

- Pregnant women
- Caregivers of infants under age 6 months
- Health care workers (HCW) and emergency medical services personnel (EMS)
- All persons age 6 months through 24 years
- Persons age 25 through 64 years with chronic medical conditions that increase their risk of influenza complications.

Based on availability of vaccine formulations and patient mix in individual practices, healthcare providers may choose to preferentially vaccinate subsets of patients within the ACIP target populations. ACIP guidance states that if the supply of the vaccine initially available is not adequate to meet demand for vaccination among the five target groups listed above, healthcare providers may prioritize the following subset of the initial target groups for vaccination until vaccine availability increases (order of target groups does not indicate priority):

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material
- Children aged 6 months--4 years
- Children and adolescents aged 5--18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

Public Health – Seattle & King County recommends that healthcare providers:

- Use clinical judgment to identify in your practice high risk patients within the ACIP target populations or subgroups eligible for vaccination with available formulations (see link to ACIP guidelines, below)
- Consider eligible for vaccine adults 25 through 64 years of age with underlying conditions placing them at high risk for influenza complications even when supply is limited (because of the high mortality rate in this group)
- Do not use injectable vaccine in persons eligible for LAIV (intranasal vaccine) when LAIV is available to order (because injectable vaccine is in short supply currently)
- Prioritize vaccination of healthcare workers and EMS with direct patient contact and exposure to infectious materials over those at lower risk while vaccine is in short supply

Please see the complete CDC-ACIP 2009 H1N1 vaccine recommendations at
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>